

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Minear et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,983,350). Claims 1, 10, and 20 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that *Minear* does not disclose, teach, or even suggest the presently claimed application.

Substance of Examiner Interview

The undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on July 28, 2005. Participants of the interview included Examiner Nobahar, Examiner Barron, and Applicants' representatives Sean Sullivan and Jori Schiffman. No exhibits were shown nor demonstrations conducted. The participants discussed Claim 1 and the *Minear* reference. Further, the participants discussed the location of the security association in both *Minear* and in Applicants' claimed invention. *Minear* teaches a security association only between two firewalls, with decryption occurring at the firewalls and not at the endpoint hosts. In contrast, Applicants teach a security association between endpoint hosts, or between the first and third network devices, and any intervening network devices (*e.g.*, the second network device) are not permitted to interfere with the encryption or the security association so that the security and integrity of each packet is maintained between both endpoint hosts.

As a result of the interview, an agreement with respect to the claims was reached. Claims 1, 10, and 20 have been amended to clarify that the security association is negotiated and established between the first network device and the third network device. No new matter has been added. Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are currently in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants request that the Examiner enter this amendment and issue a Notice of Allowance.

Conclusion

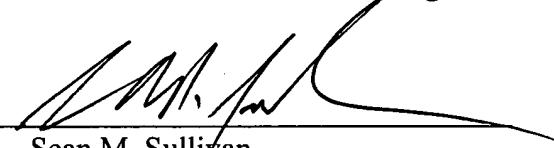
Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the remarks above, the present application, including claims 1-20, is in condition for allowance, and Applicants solicit action to that end.

If there are any additional matters which may be resolved through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 11, 2005

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